

of the prosperity of his tenant, tried to make Lewis give up his lease. When the latter refused, the nobleman came with some men, attacked Lewis's house, and firing upon it without notice, killed an invalid brother. This so enraged Lewis that, with his servants, he killed the nobleman and his steward. He thereupon fled from Ireland, came to America, and was the first white man to settle in Augusta county. His home was only a few miles from Staunton, which city he founded.

Soon after Lewis had settled in the valley he visited Williamsburg, where he met with Benjamin Borden, who, greatly pleased with Lewis's accounts of the valley, decided to cross the Blue Ridge and to explore that region. At that time buffaloes roamed in the valley, and one day the sons of John Lewis caught a little buffalo calf, which they presented to Borden. On returning to Williamsburg, Borden gave it to Governor Gooch, who was so delighted with this unusual pet that he authorized Borden to take up five hundred thousand acres of land at the headwaters of the Shenandoah and James Rivers (Augusta and Rockbridge counties), on the condition that he would send settlers into the valley. Borden at once brought colonists from England, and soon there were thriving settlements in this region, then a part of Orange county.

The Lewises were Scotch-Irish, and their lives clearly indicate what type of men they were. The eldest son of John Lewis was Thomas, who, on account of his poor eyesight, could not take part in the Indian wars which harassed the settlers on the frontier. He was, however, a man of prominence in Augusta, which county he represented in the House of Burgesses, when he voted in favor of Patrick Henry's fa-

Indians jumped after and chased him down the ravine. But he ran across a field, leaped over some fallen trees, and hid himself in the tall weeds. The Indians failed to find him, although they made a long and faithful search. While Lewis was lying hid in the grass he perceived a huge rattlesnake coiled and ready to attack him. He knew that if he shuddered, or winked his eye even, that the rattlesnake would strike, so he kept perfectly still for more than an hour, until the rattlesnake crossed over his body and crawled away. Charles Lewis became a major in the Virginia militia, and fell bravely fighting the Indians at Point Pleasant.

But the best known of the sons of John Lewis was General Andrew Lewis, who was born in Ireland, probably about the year 1716. In personal appearance he was very imposing, being more than six feet high. He had a giant's frame, and the "earth seemed to rumble under him as he walked." He was stern of countenance, and repulsive to those who did not know him well. To the Indians the mention of his name brought terror.

When a very young man he was engaged in many fights with the Indians, for hardly had the valley been settled before Indians from the borders of the Ohio River crossed the Alleghanies, destroyed many homes and killed many settlers. Among the first to take arms against the savages were the Lewis brothers.

In 1756 Governor Dinwiddie determined to send an expedition against the Shawnee Indians, who lived on the Ohio River near the mouth of Big Sandy River. For this undertaking Major Andrew Lewis was selected to command the



HISTORIC MALVERN HILL HOUSE.

One of the Estates of the Cockes Along the James River. It Dates From the Period Covered by This Chapter.

mous resolutions of 1765 opposing the Stamp Act. He was a member of the Constitutional Convention that framed the first Virginia Constitution, and of the convention which ratified the Constitution of the United States in 1788. His home was in that part of Augusta which was made into Rockingham county in 1778.

Another son of John was William, who fought in many wars against the Indians, and was an officer in the Revolutionary army when Tarleton drove the Virginia Legislature from Charlottesville. At that time William Lewis was unable to go to the defense of his State on account of sickness, but his wife told her three sons, who were only thirteen, fifteen and seventeen years of age, to prepare for war, saying: "Go, my children, keep back the foot of the invader from the soil of Augusta, or see my face no more." When this story was reported to Washington, he said: "Leave me but a banner to plant upon the mountains of Augusta, and I will rally around me the men who will lift our bleeding country from the dust and set her free."

For daring deeds Charles Lewis, the youngest son, was well known, and many a story has been repeated about him around the firesides of the valley. On one occasion Charles was taken prisoner by the Indians, who, having bound his hands behind him, were marching him barefooted across the Alleghanies. All the while he was looking for an opportunity to escape. Finally, as he was passing along the edge of a deep ravine through which ran a swift mountain stream, he plunged fearlessly over the precipice, and as he did so he succeeded in breaking the cords which bound his hands. The

forces. His little army had a long march through a great wilderness, for there were few settlements west of the Alleghany Mountains, the first settlers having gone to that region about 1748. After a month's time all of the provisions of the little army had been consumed, but the troops managed to live upon the elks and buffaloes that they shot in the forests. Lewis, failing to find the Indians, returned to Augusta. Governor Dinwiddie was displeased because nothing had been accomplished, and wrote that "Major Lewis and his men did not know the way to the Shawnee towns." Although Lewis had been unsuccessful in this expedition, the Governor soon afterwards sent him with a force into the Cherokee country. Hither Lewis proceeded and built a fort on the Tennessee River about thirty miles south of the present site of Knoxville.

In the meantime it was reported that the French and Indians were marching from Fort Duquesne (Pittsburg, Pa.), and were going to attack Winchester, so the Governor called out the militia of ten counties to serve under Washington. Lewis was ordered to raise a company of Cherokees and to join Washington, but the Indians were unwilling to serve, and when Lewis returned from the Cherokee country he brought only seven warriors and three women, instead of four hundred warriors as had been expected. Governor Dinwiddie was again greatly disappointed, but he then learned that the Virginians could not hope to enlist the Southern Indians to fight the French and the Indians of the Northwest.

The people of Augusta were in constant fear of the Indian raids, so long as the French remained in control of the